

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1-15 to read as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A sheet material conveying apparatus

comprising:

~~provided with means for holding sheet material~~ holding means for holding a plurality of sheet ~~materials on a stack~~ materials;

a feeding roller for feeding a sheet material held by said holding means;

a driving roller for ~~feeding and conveying the sheet material, and a driven roller to be in contact with said driving roller under a constant pressure to follow the rotation thereof, and~~ material fed by said feeding roller;

~~the sheet material held by said means for holding sheet material being separated one by one by said driving roller and said driven roller, said apparatus comprising:~~ a driven roller to be in contact with said driving roller under pressure to follow the rotation thereof, wherein sheet materials fed by said feeding roller are separated one by one by said driving roller and said driven roller;

a torque limiter having ~~means for changing load torques to provide~~ providing rotating load torque for said driven roller when said driven roller rotates in the conveying direction of ~~the sheet material, and to change said rotating load torque, and~~ material;

load torque changing means for changing the rotating load torque provided by said torque limiter; and

operating means ~~capable of operating from the outside of means for conveying sheet material the control of said rotating load torque generated by said means for changing load torques~~ for operating said load torque changing means so that said load torque changing means changes the rotating load torque provided by said torque limiter.

2. (Currently amended) A sheet material conveying apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~plural steps of said rotating load torque are made selective by said operating means~~ said load torque changing means changes the rotating load torque provided by said torque limiter among plural steps of rotating load torque.

3. (Currently amended) A sheet material conveying apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said operating means ~~is~~ comprises a lever movable to plural positions.

4. (Currently amended) A sheet material conveying apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said torque limiter is provided with an inner race shaft forming a part of a shaft of said driven roller ~~shaft; and~~ a spring wound around the outer circumference of said inner race ~~shaft; shaft and means for~~ said load torque changing load torques having means comprises a first spring-end fixing portion for fixing one end of said spring, and a second spring-end fixing portion for fixing the other end of said spring, ~~being~~ and is structured to rotate said second spring-end fixing portion by ~~the~~ its own rotation of

~~its own~~ with said inner race shaft as the center of rotation, and said ~~means for~~ load torque changing ~~load torques~~ means is made rotative by said operating means.

5. (Currently amended) A sheet material conveying apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising:

a first load torque actuator for providing said ~~means for~~ load torque changing ~~load torques~~ means with rotational force; and

a first load torque driving transmitting means for transmitting the driving power of said first load torque actuator to said ~~means for~~ load torque changing ~~load torques~~ means.

6. (Currently amended) A sheet material conveying apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

load changing means for ~~changing loads for~~ changing the a pressurized-contact load between said driving roller and said driven roller, wherein

said operating means controls said ~~the~~ pressurized-contact load generated by said ~~means for changing loads~~ load changing means.

7. (Currently amended) A sheet material conveying apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein ~~the combinations between plural steps of said rotating-load torques and~~ said load changing means changes the pressurized-contact ~~loads are made~~ selective by said operating means load among plural steps of the pressurized-contact load.

8. (Currently amended) A sheet material conveying apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said load changing means ~~for changing loads~~ is provided with a pressing spring for pressing said driving roller and said driven roller to be in contact with each other, and means for changing loads generated by said pressing spring.

9. (Currently amended) A sheet material conveying apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising:
a ~~second~~ load actuator for providing said load changing means ~~for changing loads~~ with driving power; and
~~a second load~~ driving transmitting means for transmitting the driving power of said ~~second load~~ actuator to said ~~means for changing loads~~ load changing means.

10. (Currently amended) A sheet material conveying apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising:
a load torque actuator for providing said load torque changing means with rotational force; and
load torque driving transmitting means for transmitting the driving power of said load torque actuator to said load torque changing means.

wherein said ~~first~~ load torque actuator and said ~~second load~~ actuator are shared for use.

11. (Currently amended) A recording apparatus provided with an ink jet recording head for discharging ink to record recording information by recording means on a sheet material serving as a recording medium, said apparatus comprising:

a sheet material conveying apparatus according to ~~either~~ any one of Claim 1 to Claim 10; and

distance changing means for changing ~~distances to change~~ the distance between the surface of ~~said the~~ ink jet recording head facing the surface of ~~said the~~ recording medium and the surface of the recording medium,

wherein said operating means ~~controls~~ is capable of operating said ~~means~~ for changing distances distance changing means.

12. (Currently amended) A recording system for controlling recording on a recording medium by a recording apparatus according to Claim 11, comprising:

a host apparatus for transmitting recording commands to said recording apparatus;

designating means for designating the kind of recording medium ~~on~~ in said host apparatus;

transmitting means for transmitting to said recording apparatus the information of the designated kind of recording medium; and

controlling means for controlling said ~~rotating-load~~ load torque changing means so that the rotating load torque generated by said ~~means for changing load torques~~ torque limiter is changed in accordance with the information of the designated kind of

recording medium transmitted ~~information of recording medium~~ by said transmitting means.

13. (Currently amended) A recording system for controlling recording on a recording medium by a recording apparatus, wherein said recording apparatus is provided with an ink jet recording head for discharging ink to record recording information by recording means on a sheet material serving as a recording medium, said recording apparatus comprising:

a sheet material conveying apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said controlling means controls said pressurized-contact load generated by said means for changing loads 6; and

distance changing means for changing the distance between the surface of the ink jet recording head facing the surface of the recording medium and the surface of the recording medium, wherein said operating means is capable of operating said distance changing means;

wherein said recording system comprising:

a host apparatus for transmitting recording commands to said recording apparatus;

designating means for designating the kind of recording medium in said host apparatus;

transmitting means for transmitting to said recording apparatus the information of the designated kind of recording medium; and

controlling means for controlling said load torque changing means so that the rotating load torque generated by said torque limiter is changed in accordance with the information of the designated kind of recording medium transmitted by said transmitting means,

wherein said controlling means controls said load changing means so that the pressurized-contact load generated by said load changing means is changed in accordance with the information of the designated kind of recording medium transmitted by said transmitting means.

14. (Currently amended) A sheet material conveying apparatus comprising:

holding means for holding ~~for holding~~ a plurality of sheet materials ~~on~~ in a stack;

a driving roller for conveying a each sheet material;

a driven roller for giving resistance to a sheet material conveyed by said driving roller to retard the progress of the sheet material not to be in contact with said driving roller;

a torque limiter for providing ~~rotating-load~~ rotating load torque when said driven roller rotates in ~~the~~ a sheet conveying direction;

biasing means for biasing said driven roller to be in contact with said driving roller under pressure; and

controlling means for changing at least one of the ~~rotating-load~~ rotating load torque of said torque limiter and the biasing force of said biasing means.

15. (Currently amended) A sheet material conveying apparatus according to Claim 14, further comprising designating means for designating the kind of recording medium, wherein said controlling means changes at least one of the ~~rotating-load~~ rotating load torque and the biasing force of said biasing means in accordance with the kind of sheet designated by said designating means.